

News

Dealing with College Bullies

Rachel Pratl, editorial editor

A recent scandal involving twelve-year-old Rebecca Sedwick resulted in her committing suicide after being bullied both online and in-person by two girls aged 12 and 14. Both now face felony charges for aggravated stalking; according to the Huffington Post, the attackers sent Sedwick online messages telling her that “no one liked her and encouraged her to kill herself.” According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bullying is the third leading cause of death among people between the ages of 10 and 24. Tragic stories like Rebecca Sedwick’s aren’t shocking with bullying in grade, middle and high school, being common. However, bullying does not appear in the same way on college campuses.

In college, it’s no longer called bullying, it’s called harassment. The Student Handbook describes harassment as “any action (oral, written, or electronic) repeated or persistent series of actions, or expression that are reasonably perceived as creating an offensive, hostile educational, employment, or living environment for a student or College employee.”

For a college student, bullying or harassment is different than in high school, as many do not have the comfort of their family to retreat to after a bad day. A college student’s family essentially becomes their roommates and hall-mates. However, if they’re the problem, then what is a college student to do?

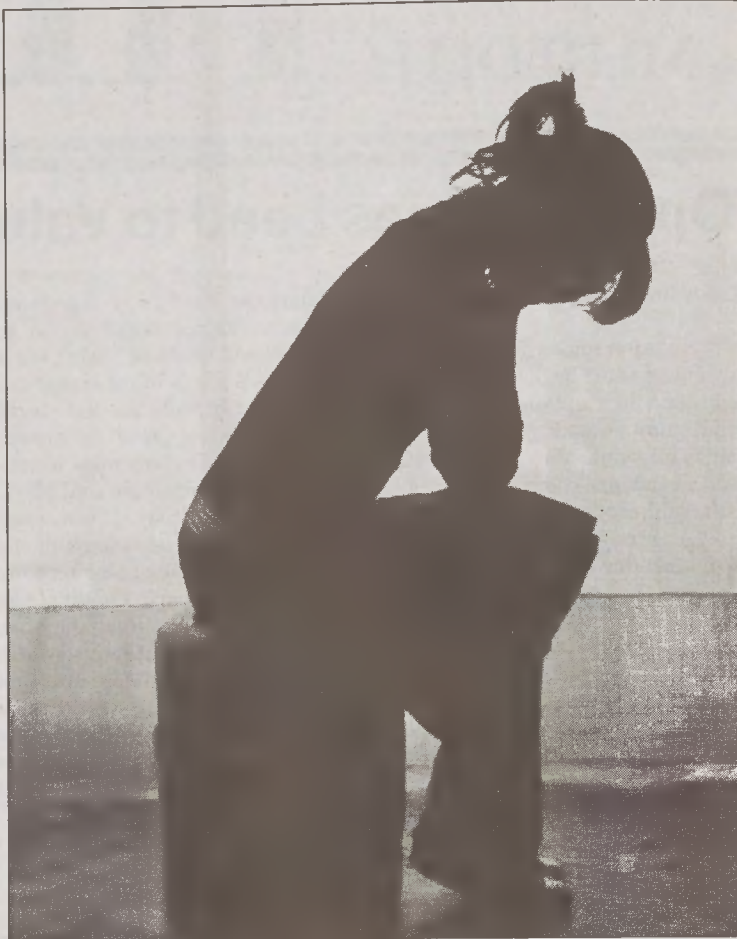
Elizabeth Meier in the Counseling Center recommends getting support from campus resources. “We have an incredible professional Residence Life staff. I would encourage [a student] to talk to her Residence Hall Director. The Counseling Center is another great campus resource. She could make an appointment or use our walk-in hours at 10:00 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We also have a 1:00 crisis hour Monday through Friday,” Meier says. Dean of Students Ann Gleason, wants students to know that they have options when faced with harassment in the Meredith community. They can reach out to a Residence Life staff member and attempt to resolve the conflict through me-

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diation. If a student feels that her rights have been more seriously violated, she can choose to take the issue to the Honor Council because any “conduct resulting in physical harm, harassment and/or discrimination of another” is in violation of the Honor Code. Getting involved in a harassment case can mean being sanctioned in different forms by the school, being placed on probation, having your graduation delayed, or even being suspended or expelled.

It may be hard to believe that irreconcilable conflicts could arise between students within a community that appears to be strongly united. However, students who have found themselves facing harassment or who are currently enduring some type of harassment, should know that there are people on campus that care about their issues and want to help make their time at Meredith the best that it can be.



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What’s your favorite social networking site to procrastinate on?

- A. Facebook
- B. Tumblr
- C. Twitter
- D. Pinterest

Vote at themeredithherald.tumblr.com

Have you gone to a Meredith sports game in the last year?

- 28% Of course, I go to all of them!
- 38% I went to one or two.
- 33% We have sports?

Results from last issue’s poll

The North Carolina State Fair’s “Homecoming”

Hannah Nielsen, staff writer

MCG’s are used to hearing the trains pass by campus, but for ten days of fall, there is also a different sound every night at 9:45 sharp: the fireworks from the fairgrounds. Though sometimes alarmed, students find it fun to hear the fireworks that draw them back to the North Carolina State Fair every year, just like a “Homecoming,” which is, incidentally, the theme of this year’s fair.

The fair offered a wide variety of entertainment options for its visitors. Carnival rides and games were strewn across the fairgrounds, and visitors can take a tour of all kinds of competitions—livestock, agriculture, knitting, clogging, and so much more. They could even watch pig races, goat races, and duck races, which are as exciting as they are adorable. State Fair concerts held in Dorton Arena are always a highlight of the festivities for many. This year’s musical talents included Florida-Georgia Line, MercyMe, Sister Hazel, Francesca Battistelli and Scotty McCreery.

Even if someone had just gone to the State Fair to people-watch, they might as well have something to eat while they did it. Everywhere visitors walked on the fairgrounds, they were enveloped in the smells of sweet cotton candy, freshly fried confections, smoked turkey, and corn. Fair food is truly unlike anything else. The Krispy Kreme burger was back this year along with other fair favorites such as deep friend Oreos and Reese’s. Newcomers this year included a Krispy Kreme sloppy joe (which is exactly what it sounds like), deep fried red velvet Oreos, and pink lemonade funnel cake. If all this fried food sounded a little rich for a visitor’s taste, there were a few healthier options. There was even a Mediterranean stand this year with vegetarian and gluten-free menu items. The State Fair truly had something for everyone this year.



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